Photo History

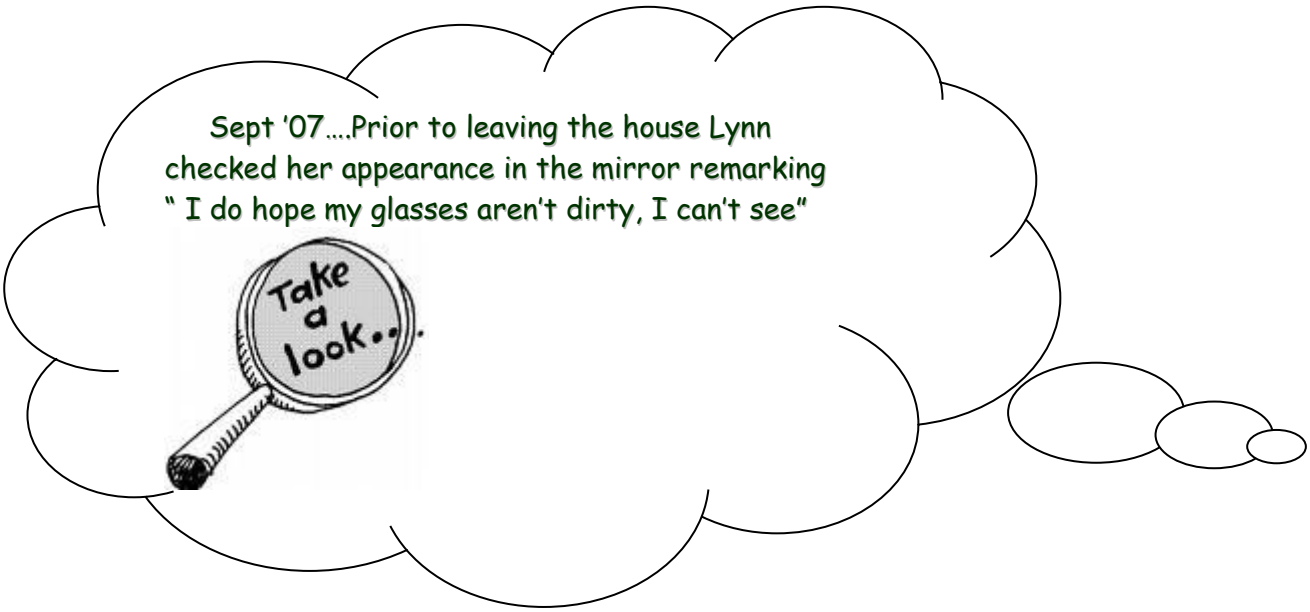
May to August 2007 (Volume 17)

May 2007 - (Volume 17)

Sept'07 and the end of what has been documented as the wettest year since records began. It has put the 'mockers' on summer days out and yet we have had a great year because we seemed to have always been able to grab the day as it happened and we had a great time in Devon, Scotland and The Medway Valley. All short breaks but each one memorable in its own way.

We always deliver our food to clients and Lynny and I then enjoy the area we find ourselves in. We have had magic walks along the South Bank on 'syrupy' nights and seen some really great theatre productions in town, ranging from 'meal deals' at The Menier Chocolate Factory' to Carmen Jones at the newly refurbished Festival Hall.

In 1997 I started a scrapbook-style book of notes, press-cuttings and general 'out-takes' which I laughingly called 'MUSINGS BY RALPH' This is now a mighty fat volume and I am going to incorporate future idiosyncrasies into this PHOTO HISTORY from now on. It seems a natural medium to enjoy the 'sillier' and sometimes poignant extracts from life as they occur.



Update.....What's new??????

Lynn is prettier than ever and has developed a new personality matching her hair...and I don't mean she is now a typical blonde.... We talk and laugh together and really enjoy one another's company (and yes that includes bickering and bitching at one another - but life ain't never dull)

Mum is still well and very much a part of the family life. She misses Dad but has friends and busies herself reading, with trips to the library. She is a regular at Asda where she gets her daily needs and she sees friends and goes out to Isgara, the Finchley restaurant with her friends

where they are welcomed as long-time 'regulars'. TV fills the extra time and we speak every day without fail, going out at least once a week together.

Dad said "look after mum" as if he new he was going to die shortly after saying that. Obviously we do and the kids are also great in keeping in touch with "omi"

DP and Angela with the kids are still travelling in the 'library' and it is a great mobile home. They have been mainly in this country and are doing well at the festivals, carving a great name for themselves. They are a popular family and when we saw them at one festival recently everyone knew them and they were well established there. Beau Phineas is very much a boy and a great lad. Esme-Peach (Peachie) is her own person and has already established a personality and will not be ignored. They are delightful kids and we love to see them at every opportunity (even if, due to their travels, it is not regular)

Ben and Tammy are very happy and the boys are growing into really nice young men. They are both individuals and developing great personalities .
Larnie is still a lovely kid but with her active school and social life we are unable to see her as much as we used to...but that is as it should be. She is getting on really well at school and her report was a joy to read (not like my old reports!!)
Ben is doing really well at work and constantly travels to Holland and from time to time travels to the US (with Tammy when possible). He is being 'head-hunted' at present and we await the outcome with great interest.

Tammy is an admitted 'chilli freak' and we have bought her chilli plants and she even dragged poor Ben to a 'Chilli Festival' where she was in heaven by all accounts. A passion not inherited from Lynn or myself I hasten to add.

And they have finally succumbed and bought a bundle of golden fur travelling under the name of Lubbus. - a pedigree Golden Retriever. Aged 9 ½ weks it joined the Hur household in late August and is really a full time job...went head first into the pond last week (just saved by the netting cover). Wash day is a nightmare apparently as she battles with the sheets to get into the machine first....

.....Well on with Volume 17 and the photos,'Musings' and text will speak for themselves....I hope all that have taken the time to read this are not bored and find it interesting. Perhaps you can add something to it and when I have gone perhaps you can continue it...that would be my greatest wish.....

Photo History continues

June'07

Maryanne and Peter managed to get us tickets to Royal Ascot and we all were really looking forward to a great day out, however overall, we all agreed, it was a great disappointment.

There was a feeling of 'past it's sell-by date' about the whole atmosphere and one got the impression that unless you were in the actual Royal Enclosure you were one of the plebs. Trouble is that the Royal Enclosure seemed populated by freeloaders on company junkets and were actually just mere commoners, ie mortals like us....Or is that a jaundiced view. Well you decide..

A walk from the car park which was full of people bravely resisting the temptation to go home and vainly struggling to have an "oh so jolly" picnic under a wind-whipped mini gazebo giving its impression of a sail on the high seas. Marks and Spencer's half lobsters in plastic-moulded trays made to fit and Tesco's special sparkling wine drunk out of plastic flutes toppling over if you as much as breathed on them. These picnics were left unguarded as the owners went to see their selected horses lose them more money. (After all who the hell would pinch anything on that paper-cloth covered wobbly table??)

When you got to the stand (terrace?? - sorry I don't know the correct term) you stood on a narrow concrete plinth about three inches above the row in front which in principal might have afforded you an occasional sight of the horses (or Her Majesty circling in her carriage). However after a while you tired and if attempting to sit down

a) you couldn't see anything other than the backside of the person in front
b) you were trampled on by one of the many inebriated punters going along the row
c) you stood up to see the cause of the cheering only to find your face buried in a mass of feathers of some exotic head piece sported by an overweight female showing rather too much cleavage

Attempting to find if there was anywhere better to view the proceedings we were sniffily escorted out of the 'Forbidden Area' as we were not wearing the correct hired outfit. So we went for a meal. A sorry catering offering was made. It is ok if you wanted a drink with champagne at prices that bore no recognition to the fact that this year champagne prices had plummeted downwards or plastic jugs of Pimms diluted in masses of lemonade and in case the profit mark-up might dip to 100% lets put in loads of ice to further dilute it. Yes the crowd was beginning to sway. Possibly that is why they did not protest about fish and chips on cardboard plates with sachets of sauce. Burgers and pizzas in plenty with long queues but a decent bistro-style lunch was nowhere to be seen. I am sure we were not the only ones that found the whole thing a bit naff.

Photo History

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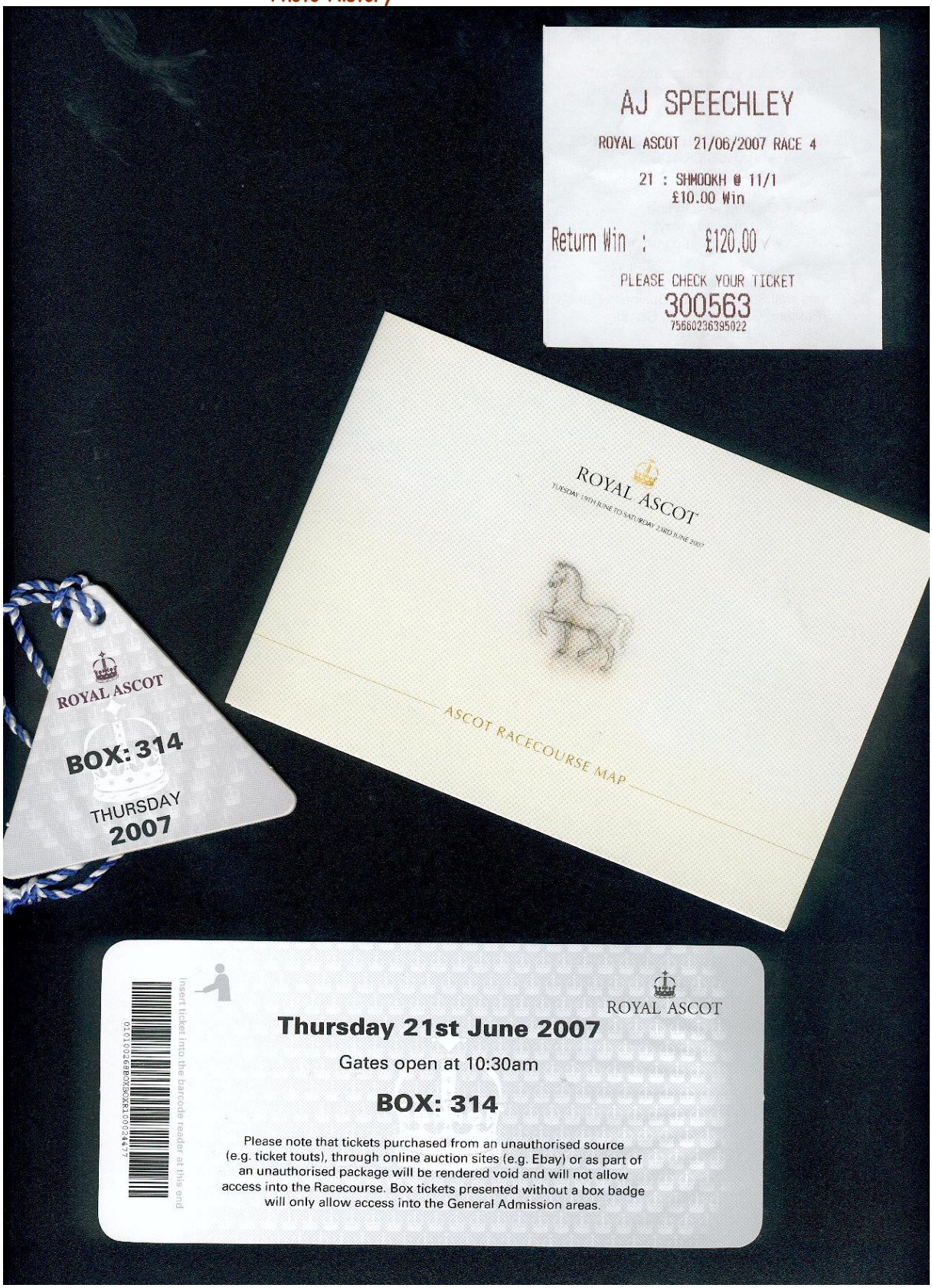

Photo History

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June'07

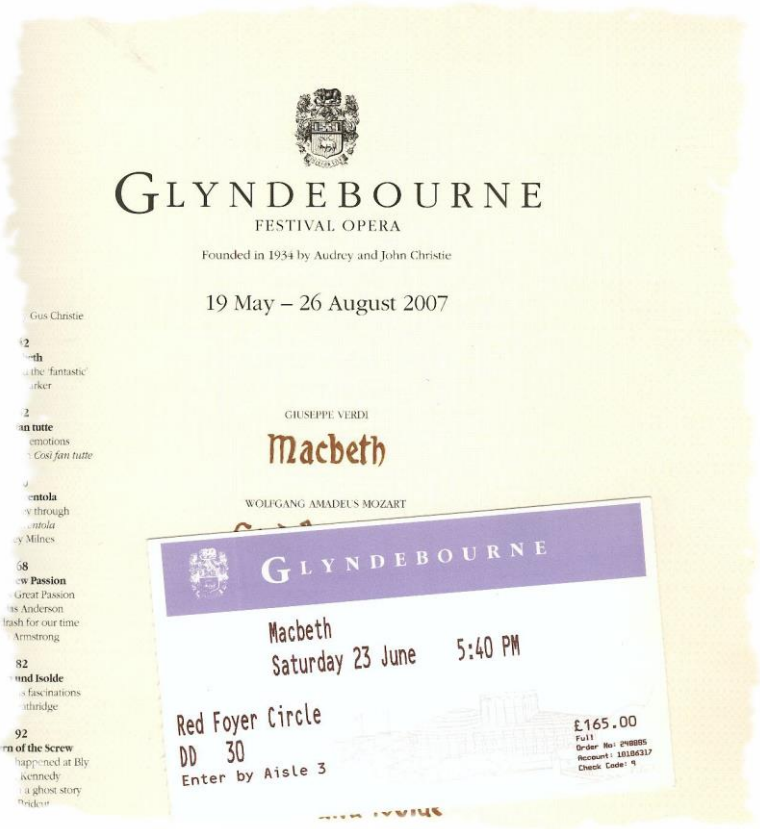
A struggle to keep the brollies from turning inside-out

One of the many 'sights'

Photo History

He was great at walking sedately around but not so good at actually racing.....

Photo History



It seems like we spent 2007 at the Society events but we have always wanted to visit Glyndebourne and when Maryanne and Peter asked us to join them we were delighted.

We had tea at a pretty tea shop in the neighbouring village and then went on to Glyndebourne itself

Photo History

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The grounds were extremely pretty and everyone was in evening suits and the ladies were attractively attired. The regulars had it all organised with picnic spots 'bagged' with a 'casually' placed jacket or picnic hamper - positions remembered from previous years and obviously jealously guarded. The English equivalent of the German towel reserving the beach chair by the pool.
However they had not organised the weather and we were much better off making a last-minute reservation in the barn-restaurant where an excellent buffet meal was very professionally executed.

We walked the grounds and enjoyed the history of Glyndebourne with its preserved original rooms complete with organ and grand portraits etc

Photo History

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The production of Macbeth was a very controversial one and did not conform with the staid opera that I had expected.

Well done Glyndebourne...you have shaken me out of my pre-conceptions in every way

A really great day out...

The Airport Lounger

Croissants and money-changing
Ever-changing screens list exotic locations
Sprawled-out sleepers with back-pack pillows
Toilet mirrors reflect sleepy faces shaving
A parallel world of cleaners intermingle
Through snaking boulevards of trolleys
Ants inch towards painted smiles
Repeated mantras aged meaningless by endless repetition
Brightly illuminated shops seduce loose coinage from time-surplus punters
Valuables hastily emptied into scanned plastic boxes
Safely stored tickets frantically sought in confusion
Excise cameras spy the mock nonchalant striding
Paradise images line pre-fabricated walkways
More miniature lounges echo the former
With flickering screens seemingly frozen in time
Broadcast commands provoke immediate response
From faceless moles tunnelling again as required
Towards that cold blast of air heralding final entry
Stowing of bags into already-filled lockers
A shoe-horned manoeuvre into wrongly sized seating
Mock-smiling check that belts are secured
And the non-listening ritual of safety procedures
And whoosh we're off on a jolly holiday !!!!!

Photo History

Unexpectedly as Lynn and I were driving in town Lynn noticed guards on parade in Hyde Park. We quickly parked close to the park and almost immediately we saw the car approaching behind us

The Royal Car approaches Hyde Park

Approaching The Guard of Honour

It turned into the park right next to us and Her Majesty alighted with a very few onlookers present. She climbed onto a small dais and the band played a beautiful sequence of music.

Photo History

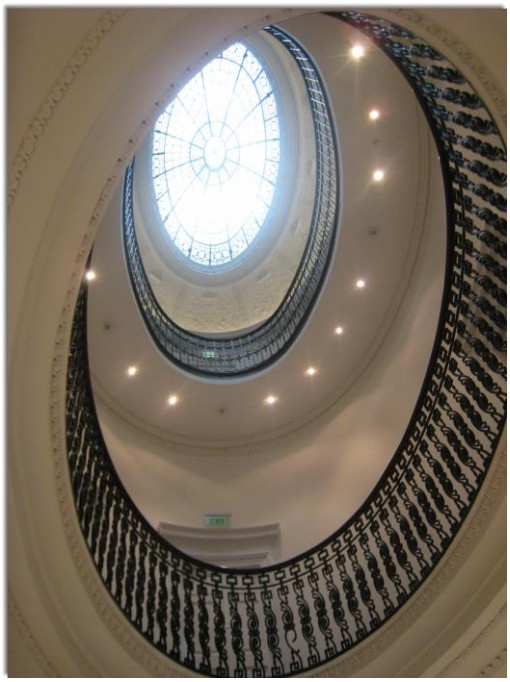
We met Martin and Maxine in Glasgow in July and stayed the first night in the City centre and did a Martin-inspired walkabout totally enjoying ourselves in a relaxed and casual way that has become so much a part of our long-standing relationship.

GLASGOW

GLASGOW

No Maxine, I am sure it is the rider's foot!!!!

Photo History



Some different Glasgow shots....

The changes since we were last here are fabulous.....it is a vibrant city now with lots to enjoy..

Photo History

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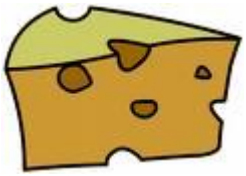
The market.... Now

...and as it was

Photo History



No....I don't think the re-cycling was that selective really

We celebrated our 43rd wedding anniversary together in a really great restaurant in Glasgow. A wonderful meal with wonderful friends.

Photo History

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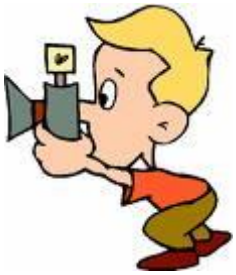
I find that I have taken loads of shots in Scotland so I will do a "Why, just cos it's there" book of images from there rather than fill the "Photo History" with these shots…. I will include just the favourite ones with people on it for this volume.

(The silly Seagull)

Photo History



I think Martin and I had our cameras stuck to our faces for the whole time.

The scenery was spectacular and often it was so special that you knew the photos would not do the actual scene justice…not that that stopped us however……

Photo History

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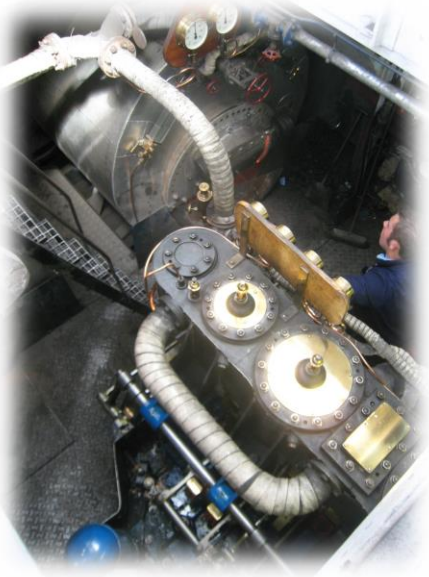
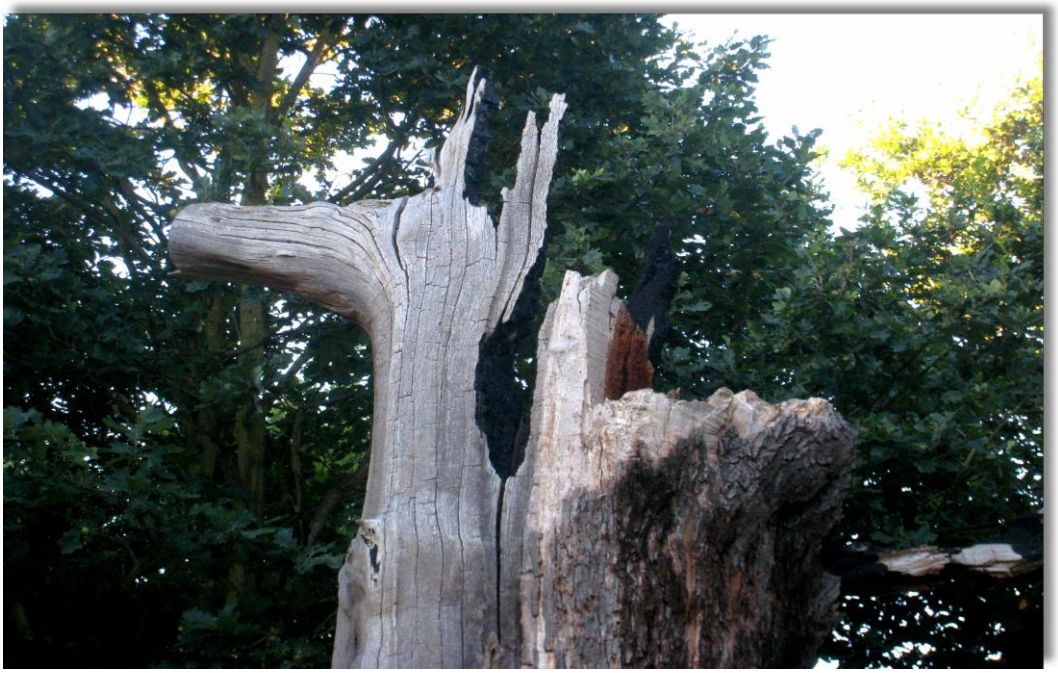
On the Sir Walter Scott

Photo History



Tree shapes



July'07…The kids enjoying the fountain in Russell Square

July 2007

Photo History

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Coffee with Tammy, Ben, Larnie and Omi at Southgate…August '07

Photo History

Boat building under the bridge at Richmond